THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does Not arise.

(d) Government has allowed SAIL to have a minority share holding in any Joint Venture contemplated for revival of Indian Iron and Steel Company (IISCO). An action plan for conversion of IISCO into a Joint Venture has not yet been finalised.

VRS in steel plants

1935. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Voluntary Retirement Scheme has been introduced in the public Sector steel plants;

(b) if so, since when and the amount spent by the Steel Authority of India Limited on paying compensation and making other payments to its employees under VRS;

(c) the number of employees in different steel plants who have accepted VRS till October, 1999 i.e. the closure of VRS; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) Voluntary Retirement Schemes (VRS) have been implemented in the steel plants under Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) during 1986—93, 1998 and 1999. No VRS has been implemented in Visakhapatnam Steel Plant.

(b) to (d) The scheme of VRS operation by SAIL during 1998 and 1999 was on deferred payment basis. Number of persons, plant wise, who availed the VRS is in the Statement I. *(See* below).

Information about number of persons who availed VRS during 1986 to 1993 is given in the Statement-II. *(See* below). Information on the amount spent on payments under VRS will be collected and laid on the Table of the House.

Statement-I

Bhilai Steel Plant	1170	3397
Durgapur Steel Plant	1254	3184
Rourkela Steel Plant	1201	2619
Bokaro Steel Plant	908	1233
Alloy Steels Plant	650	1529
Salem Steel Plant	38	61

Statement-I

The plant wise number of employees separated through Voluntary Retirement Scheme during 1986—1993 are given below:

BSP	1148	2983	832	743	1110	1005	1134
DSP	163	386	295	337	510	340	511
RSP	188	535	480	603	711	562	805
BSL	18	105	77	69	216	93	129
ASP	6	33	49	83	87	68	90
SSP	0	1	1	1	2	3	5

Bailout package for SAIL

1936. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMARAGARWALLA:
SHRI RAMACHANDRAIAH RUMANDLA:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have declared a bailout package for SAIL;

(b) if so, what is the total amount under this package that has been waived; and